imposition of higher margins and curbing of excessive concentration by brokers. SEBI has also cautioned investors by way of press releases to exercise caution while transacting in securities.

Development of tourists infrastructure in Orissa

*517. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to develop tourist infrastructure in Orissa to attract domestic as well as foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the number of foreign as well as domestic tourists who arrived in the State during the last three years and the number expected to arrive in the coming two years;

(c) the infractructure developed to accommodate those tourists; and

(d) the other details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Development of tourist infrastructure is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State Governments every year for development of tourist infrastructure based on specific projects/ schemes identified in consultation with them and as per guidelines and availability of funds.

(b) The number of foreign as well as domestic tourists who visited the State during last three years is given below :—

Year	No. of foreign tourists	No. of domestic tourists
1997	35,082	28,28,393
1998	35,090	29,13,245
1999	36,985	29,14,536

(c) and (d) The details of Central financial assistance sanctioned for

development of tourist infrastructure in Orissa State during the last three years are as under :—

Year	No. of projects	Amount sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
			(Rupees in lakhs)	
1997-98	25		538.05	121.00
1998-99	4		170.60	52.30
1999-2000	29		563.05	171.38

Results of extension of working hours in Banks

*518. PROF. M.SANKARALINGAM .Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have undertaken any study to know the performance of the Nationalised Banks after extending their working hours;

(b) whether there is any improvement in the performance of these Banks after extending their working hours; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Extension of working hours of bank branches is a measure intended to provide additional service to customers, leading to a higher level of customer satisfaction and increase business of the bank. While the improvement in the performance of banks as a result of extended working hours cannot be quantified, a higher level of customer satisfaction is normally expected to lead to enhanced business in due course.

Study on floods in Assam

*519. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any study of the regular floods caused in Assam valley by the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries from the neighbouring States;

(b) if so, the details of the study reports for controlling the waters of the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries; and

(c) the measures taken for controlling the waters of different tributary rivers of the Brahmaputra rivers to give benefits to the concerned States?